

Church News

Additional

Ashland University

We are pleased to report the receipt of the following apportionments:

Burns Chapel, Ind., per B. H. Flora, \$13.00; Burns Chapel, Ind., per Mrs. John Miller, \$13.50; Gretna, O., per Samuel Snyder, \$10.75; Pleasant View, Ind., per G. W. Rensch, \$1.00; Rosedale, Pa., per B. S. Benshoof, \$30.00.

Kanemorado District, per A. J. Hixson, Parsons, Kans.:—Pleasant View Kan., \$9.00; Jasper City, Mo., \$3.55; Montevallo, Mo., \$5.25; Fairview, Kan., \$3.52; Godfrey & Drywood classes, Kan., \$20.00; Mulvane, Kan., \$6.50; South Haven, Kan., \$6.00; Portis, Kan., \$30.00; Maple Grove, Kan., \$20.00; Pony Creek, Kan., \$56.00; Bethany, Kan., \$100.00; Beaver City, Neb., \$40.00; Carleton, Neb., \$107.43; Fall City, Neb., \$36.00; A Brother, Fall City, Neb., \$10.00; Mary K. Fair, Fall City, Neb., 20.00

Total,	\$555.25
Less exchange,	.70

\$554.55

This with the amount already received from Kanemorado district leaves them short only \$58.45, which they promise to send in very soon, and also a report from California that their little balance of \$16.00 will be forwarded the first week in February. It is gratifying to see how well the western districts are paying their apportionments in full. They do not want to have it said that they are delinquent a single dollar. We have some encouraging reports from Penn. district, and we are looking for a number of remittances during the coming week. There are yet a few congregations in Ohio district that are delinquent. It would be a joke on the Buckeye State to have them come in last with the balance of their apportionments. It should be unnecessary for us to again publish the delinquent congregations, and we hope that all will yet this month send in their apportionments.

Yours fraternally,

JOHN KEIM.

Sec. A. U. F. Com.

Philadelphia, Pa.

One more baptized here since our last report. The first week in the year we had house cleaning among us. We asked the Lord to clean out our bodies, the temples of the Holy Ghost (II Cor. 6:16; I Cor. 3:16, 17) and praise the Lord he is doing it gloriously. Many have been presenting their bodies a living sacrifice holy to the Lord, and the God of peace is sanctifying them wholly, spirit, soul and body; praise his holy name. Souls are being converted every night, and there is a mighty shaking of the dry bones. We have a Scotch evangelist helping us, and the Lord is mightily working. Brethren I am amazed at the abundant teaching of the Holy Spirit in the word of

BRETHREN EVANGELIST

God. And how little is said about him in the pulpit and in the press. And about half that is said about him is condemning those who claim him. Brethren, take warning. For ten years I preached against Bible sanctification, judging it by counterfeits. Just read carefully John 14:15, 16; the Acts, the Epistolary writings, and Revelation concerning the Holy Spirit, then look at your own sermons, listen to your own conversation, and look at the average article of the religious press and you can see the contrast even if you are half blind. Brethren don't fight the Spirit, when you see the counterfeits, live the genuine life instead.

I. D. BOWMAN.

SUCCESS ONLY FROM CHRIST

THEODORE L. CUYLER, D. D.

At this season of the year many are asking the questions: How can our church be revived? How can the spiritual force of my Sabbath school be strengthened? How can the backsliders and the unconverted be moved? The answers to such questions often are, the appointment of special services in the church, or the sending of some popular preacher or itinerating evangelist. Such special services are frequently barren of results, and an imported preacher's sermons have been as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal. And the cause of these failures has been that reliance has been placed entirely upon a human instrument. Instead of sending for a man, they should first have sent for the Master.

On a certain occasion the father of a boy who was possessed by an evil spirit brought the child to a group of Christ's disciples and besought them to cast out the evil spirit. They tried and failed. When Jesus arrived the miracle was speedily wrought, and the disciples inquired of him, "Why could not we cast him out?" The reply of their Master was a very unexpected one; he told them plainly that the fault was with themselves. It rose from their lack of faith, or, in other words, from their want of vital connection with him as the fountain of all power. They had tried to do what in their own strength was an impossibility. Their failure emphasized what Jesus declared most emphatically "without Me ye can do nothing."

The only faith that can save our own souls, or enable us to help the souls of others, must be vastly more than an opinion, more than an emotion; it must be that spiritual act which unites our weakness to Christ's strength, our unworthiness to his merits as an atoning Savior, and ourselves to himself. The parable of "the vine" describes it exactly. "He that abideth in me, and I in him," said the Master, "the same shall bring forth much fruit; for without Me, ye can do nothing." Just as long as we abide in Christ we receive his help and are endowed with a divine grace, we can bear the rich fruits of the Spirit, we can resist temptations, we can "remove mountains" of difficulty; evil spirits that trouble us are dislodged; our prayers bring

rich blessings; but divorced from his omnipotence we are powerless.

Casting out devils is no child's play; and when men undertake to conquer long-seated habits of sin, by a simple resolution, they usually fail. A drunkard sometimes signs a solemn pledge of entire abstinence, musters up his will-power, and sets a barricade across the old abominable habit that proves to be a dam of rushes; the torrent of temptation soon sweeps it away, and he is back in the ditch again. He did not grapple his hold on the divine strength; a partnership with Christ would have given him the victory. That most eloquent of Christian advocates of temperance, John B. Gough, used to tell me that the power to keep the tiger of appetite chained came directly from Christ. So it is with any other sensualist, with the worldling, with the slave of covetousness or with any other species of sinner; self-regeneration is a sheer impossibility. The sinner is only victorious when he is converted; and conversion means the vital alliance of himself to the Almighty Savior. Success comes with Christ.

What is true in the early experiences of conversion is equally true through the whole Christian life. Christ's plan is to work in partnership with his human servants; he uses us, not angels, but without him we can do nothing. A general must have an army; but the most superbly disciplined army wins no battles without a competent commander. Sheridan is away at Winchester, and his gallant troops are surprised and driven back, he comes dashing on the field, rallies the discomfited Union troops and turns a rout into a triumph. Separate the brilliant leader and the regiments, and you have defeat; unite them, and you have victory. This is the secret of success or failure with every Christian, every pastor, every Sabbath school, every church, every missionary enterprise. God does not work without agents; and we without the divine help are as pitifully helpless as those nine poor disciples were when one devil-ridden boy made them the butt of ridicule before the scoffing crowd. Ah, how often is this scene re-enacted in the sad experience of professors whose presumptuous boasts end in failure—and in the equally sorry experiences of churches who rely on certain persons or machineries to "get up a revival" without Jesus Christ. Our blessed Master makes most liberal offer of his divine aid; he makes most precious promises of great blessings, if we are only faithful to his conditions. With him everything; without him nothing!

Since vital union with Jesus Christ is indispensable to all success, we must not neglect the means of maintaining this union. In the case of casting out that evil spirit our Savior said that prayer and self denial were essential. "This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." These are the spiritual acts and the discipline which nurture faith and cement the connection with Him. Fervent, reverent, honest prayer can couple us to Jesus as the railway operative couples the mo-